

**City of Reading City Council
Regular Business Meeting
Monday, April 23, 2012**

Council President Francis G. Acosta called the meeting to order.

The invocation was given by Pastor Joe Ganser from Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church.

All present pledged to the flag.

ATTENDANCE

Council President Acosta

Councilor Corcoran, District 1

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz, District 2

Councilor Sterner, District 3

Councilor Marmarou, District 4

Councilor Reed, District 5

Councilor Waltman, District 6

Mayor V. Spencer

City Auditor D. Cituk

City Solicitor C. Younger

City Clerk L. Kelleher

PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

City Council issued the following:

- Council Commendation recognizing the installation of the new Welcome to Reading sign by Public Works staff at Second and Penn Streets, accepted by Kyle Zeiber and Public Works staff members who as a team designed, developed and installed the new sign.
- Council Commendation recognizing Municipal Clerks Week, accepted by Linda Kelleher, City Clerk.
- Council Commendation recognizing AFSCME Week, accepted by William Frymoyer AFSCME 2763 and George Fultz AFSCME 3799.
- Council Commendation recognizing Reading Youth Athletic Program, accepted by Donald Taddei, President.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Acosta announced that one (1) citizen was registered to address Council on non-agenda business. He inquired if any Councilor objected to suspending the rule requiring non-agenda comment at the end of the Council meeting. As no one objected, the rule to require non-agenda comment at the end of the meeting was suspended. Council President

Acosta reminded the citizen registered to speak of the remaining public speaking rules.

Council President Acosta noted that this citizen is the first to register to address Council using the new tab located on the City's website.

Karen Feridun, of East Main Street, Kutztown, noted the ease and convenience of registering to speak online. She suggested that all citizens desiring to address Council use this method of registration. She distributed information before the meeting about Act 37 regarding the drilling of natural gas and the impact fee. She explained that the third section restricts local control and pertains to all drilling, location of pipelines, etc. She stated that this bill goes much further than originally intended or described. She also noted that the third section does not cover the impact fee. She also provided a draft resolution for municipalities to oppose Act 37.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA & MINUTES

Council President Acosta called Council's attention to the agenda for this meeting and the minutes for the April 9th Regular Meeting of Council. He noted the need to remove the first letter K. from the Ordinances for Introduction and add a new ordinance for introduction labeled L setting the salary of the Fire Chief at \$72K.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Sterner, to approve the minutes from the April 9th Regular Meeting of Council and the agenda as amended, including the legislation under the Consent Agenda heading.. The motion was approved unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Resolution 54-2012 - authorizing the Mayor to execute a FFY 2011 ESG Action Plan amendment (Community Development) *Reviewed at 4-16 Finance Audit Budget Committee*

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Mayor Spencer read the report distributed to Council at the meeting with highlights as follows:

- 375 applicants took the Fire Civil Service Test. Of these applicants, 75 with the top scores will move on to the physical agility test resulting in the hiring of 12 candidates
- Thanks to the Public Works employees who designed, painted, lettered and installed at Second and Penn Streets
- Tree planting by the Reading Shade Tree Commission on North Sixth Street where 34 new trees were planted
- Update on the PILOT/ SILOT project
- Start date of the in source recycling is April 30th
- Thanks to Karen Barsoum for the work she provided in the Managing Director's Office

and wishing her well with her new County position

AUDITOR'S REPORT

City Auditor Cituk read the report distributed to Council at the meeting covering the following:

- 2012 Admissions Tax Collection
- 2012 Real Estate Transfer Tax Collection
- Start of the State audit for the Liquid Fuels Fund for 2009, 2010, and 2011
- External Audit Conference on the three (3) Pension funds

ORDINANCES FOR FINAL PASSAGE

Bill No. 38-2012 - amending Chapter 5, Code Enforcement of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Reading by adding appeal language for Quality of Life Violations and clarifying language in the current Fines and Penalties Section (Law/Codes) Introduced at the March 12 regular meeting; Tabled at the March 26 regular meeting; discussed at April Work Session

Councilor Corcoran moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to enact Bill No. 38-2012.

Council President Acosta stated that this amendment only provides clarifying language to the amendment process and to fine area. He stated that the Administration will be providing a recommendation to Council at the May Work Session.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz stated that further clarifications to this ordinance are needed. She noted the need for a program that provides balance.

Bill No. 38-2012 was enacted by the following vote:

Yeas: Corcoran, Goodman-Hinnershitz, Marmarou, Reed, Sterner, Waltman, Acosta,
President – 7

Nays: None- 0

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ORDINANCES

A. Ordinance - repealing Ordinance 45-2008 and amending the Codified Ordinances Chapter 1 Administration and Government Part 5 Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils by deleting A. Park and Recreation Citizen's Advisory Committee Sections 1-501 through and including 1-506 accordingly (Council Staff/Law)

B. Ordinance - amending the City of Reading Codified Ordinances Chapter 3 Bicycles Part 1 Bicycle Regulations Section 3-106 Operation and Parking by adding the Reading Parking Authority (Council Staff/Law)

C. Ordinance - amending the Codified Ordinances Chapter 15 Motor Vehicles and Traffic Part 10 Regulation of Pedalcycles and Non-Motorized Vehicles Section 15-1001 Riding and Parking of Pedalcycles on Sidewalks along Certain Streets Prohibited by adding the Reading Parking Authority (Council Staff/Law)

D. Ordinance - amending the Codified Ordinances Chapter 16 Parks and Recreation by adding a new Part 4 as attached relating to Public Private Partnerships for City Parks and Playgrounds (Council Staff/Law)

E. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances §1-199.03 Boards and Commissions/Councils Establishing the City of Reading Audit Committee as prescribed by the Act 47 Recovery Plan CA 02 as a new Part 22 (Council Staff/PFM)

F. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances Council Committees §1-120 #2A Power and Duties by including Membership and Participation on the City of Reading Audit Committee (Council Staff/PFM)

G. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances City Clerk §1-161. Power and Duties by adding a role on the City of Reading Audit Committee (Council Staff/PFM)

H. Ordinance - amending the Codified Ordinances City Auditor §1-151. Power and Duties by adding the role of Chair for the City of Reading Audit Committee (Council Staff/PFM)

I. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances, Part 20, Solid Waste, Part 2, Dumpster Placement, Section 203, Conditions of Use, Subsection 2.E, Temporary and Permanent Dumpsters (Law)

J. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances, Chapter 11, Housing, Section 102, Definitions, by expanding the definition of a Vacant Property to include a Vacant Property for Sale, A Vacant Property Undergoing Rehabilitation and a Vacation/Second Residence as well as adding a Penalty for Failing to Timely Register a Vacant Property as attached in Exhibit A (Law) To be distributed Monday

K. Ordinance – amending the Codified Ordinances Chapter 24 by creating a new Part 11 Tax Amnesty Program (Council Staff/Law/Bus Analyst) To be distributed on Monday

L. Ordinance – setting the salary of the Fire Chief at \$72K per annum

RESOLUTIONS

None

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilor Marmarou thanked College Heights Community Council for their clean-up efforts on Heister's Lane as a part of the Great American Cleanup. He specifically thanked Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hoh and Sherlene Evans.

Councilor Marmarou inquired about the theft of aluminum from the recycling set out for City collection in the College Heights area.

Councilor Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the coordination of activities around Non-Violence week running from April 21st to April 28th. She stated that the celebration started with a Peace March. She highlighted some of the upcoming events.

Councilor Reed stated that Senator Schwank stated that she will be holding a District 11 clean-up in early May. She stated that the event will be coordinated by Sandy Steif.

Councilor Reed described the clean-up effort at the Glenside Elementary School by the neighborhood community group.

Councilor Reed described the efforts to landscape the planters and median strips in the downtown organized by DID and volunteers. She also announced DID's assistance in providing Public Safety services and support to Police.

Councilor Reed announced that there will be a Special Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 1st for Council, Reading Parking Authority and DID regarding token use at surface lots operated by the Parking Authority.

Councilor Sterner congratulated the Reading Youth Organization participants and volunteers. He thanked City Clerk Linda Kelleher and Council staff for their great work and diligent support to him and to the other members of Council.

Councilor Sterner announced the Hillside Playground festival scheduled for May 2nd through May 5th.

Councilor Sterner gave kudos to the Outlet Neighborhood Group for their flower box program in the outlet neighborhood area.

Council President Acosta reminded residents to do their civic duty tomorrow on primary election day and vote.

Councilor Marmarou moved, seconded by Councilor Reed, to adjourn the regular meeting of Council.

Respectfully submitted by Linda A. Kelleher CMC, City Clerk